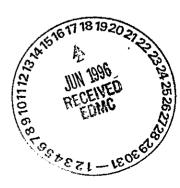
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

| Description of proposal: Approval of the RCRA Closure Plan for the 4843 Alkali Metal Storage |
|--|
| Facility (AMSF) Revision 1. |
| Proponent: U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office. |
| Location of proposal, including street address if any: The 4843 AMSF is located in the Northwest |
| Portion of the 400 Area of the Hanford Site approximately 8 miles north of Richland, Washington |
| in the SE1/4 NW1/4 SWE 1/4 of Section 18, T11N, R 28 E. Willamette Meridian (W.M.) |
| Lead agency: Washington State Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW |
| 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request. |
| ☐ There is no comment period for this DNS. |
| This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by |
| Responsible official: Mike Wilson |
| Position/title: Manager, Nuclear Waste Program |
| Address: Washington State Department of Ecology, 1315 West 4th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336 Date June 4, 1996 Signature Will Carlot Carlo |
| |



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORMS

FOR

4843 ALKALI METAL STORAGE FACILITY

RCRA CLOSURE PLAN

REVISION 1

SEPTEMBER 1995

WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORMS [WAC 197-11-960]

Α. **BACKGROUND**

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1.

Name of proposed project:

Closure of the 4843 Alkali Metal Storage Facility (4843 AMSF). This SEPA Checklist is being submitted concurrently with the 4843 AMSF closure plan. Information contained in this checklist pertains only to the 4843 AMSF. In the context of this document, 'site' refers to only the area covered by the physical structure of the unit.

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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2. Name of applicants:

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U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL); and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC).

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3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

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U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office P.O. Box 550 Richland, Washington 99352 Westinghouse Hanford Company P.O. Box 1970 Richland, Washington 99352

Contact Persons:

27 28 29

J. E. Rasmussen, Division Director Office of Environmental Assurance, Permits, and Policy Division (509) 376-5441

W. T. Dixon **Environmental Services** Westinghouse Hanford Company (509) 376-0428

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4. Date checklist prepared:

34 35

October 1995

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5. Agency requesting the checklist:

Washington State Department of Ecology Mail Stop PV-11 Olympia, WA 98504-8711

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6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

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Construction of the 4843 AMSF (originally known as Building #3) was completed in 1971. From 1971 to 1980, Building #3 was used primarily as a tool shed. In 1980, Building #3 was relocated to its current site and renamed Building 4722-E. From 1980 to 1986, Building 4722-E was used as construction support for the Fuels and Material Examination Facility. In 1986, Building 4722-E was renamed 4843 AMSF. The 4843 AMSF began receiving dangerous and mixed alkali metal waste in April 1986. The 4843 AMSF has served as a waste management unit for the storage of dangerous and mixed alkali metal waste. This material is regulated under

the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Dangerous Waste Regulations, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 173-303.

A closure plan (DOE/RL-90-49, Revision 1) is being submitted for the closure of the 4843 AMSF. The schedule for closure has not been determined at this time. Closure of the facility would begin upon notification by Ecology, and by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), of approval of the closure plan. The closure activities would be completed within 180 calendar days after approval of the plan by Ecology and the EPA.

Final closure activities would be completed and certified in accordance with the closure plan.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

 This SEPA Checklist is being submitted to Ecology and the EPA concurrently with the 4843 AMSF Closure Plan.

- A RCRA Part A Dangerous Waste Permit Application for the 4843 AMSF
 was submitted to Ecology in September 1987. Revision 1 of the Part A
 Permit Application was submitted in November 1987, and Revision 2 was
 submitted June 4, 1991.
- A Hanford Site Facility (Sitewide) Part B Permit has been issued for the Hanford Site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/State Identification Number WA7890008967). This permit contains information pertaining to the entire Hanford Site.

Additional environmental information on the Hanford Site, in general, can be found in the following references: (1) Final Environmental Impact Statement - Disposal of Hanford Defense High-Level, Transuranic and Tank Wastes, DOE/EIS-0113 (U.S. Department of Energy, 1987, Richland, Washington), (2) Hanford Site National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Characterization, PNL-6415 (Revision 6, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, 1994, Richland, Washington), and (3) Draft Environmental Impact Statement -Decommissioning of Eight Surplus Production Reactors at the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington, DOE/EIS-0119D (U.S. Department of Energy, 1989, Washington, D.C.).

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No other applications that would affect property associated with the 4843 AMSF are known to be pending government approval.

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10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

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Ecology is the lead agency authorized to approve the closure plan for the 4843 AMSF pursuant to the requirements of the WAC 173-303-610. The closure plan also must receive approval from the EPA. Ecology also is the lead agency for the Hanford Site Facility Part B Permit.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.

The proposed project is the closure of the 4843 AMSF. Clean closure is proposed as the condition for final closure of the 4843 AMSF. Clean closure is contingent on verification that all waste contaminants are removed to accepted action levels and that all equipment, structures, and/or other materials containing dangerous waste or waste residues associated with the 4843 AMSF have been removed from the site.

The 4843 AMSF, excluding parking areas and loading areas, occupies an area of 148.6 square meters (1,600 square feet). The alkali metal wastes stored in this waste management unit were sodium and lithium. Mixed alkali metal waste was stored in the northern half of the building and dangerous alkali metal waste was stored in the southern half of the building. All stored dangerous waste has been removed from the 4843 AMSF as of May 10, 1995. The mixed waste was transferred to the Hanford Central Waste Complex. The nonradioactive waste was shipped offsite to an approved TSD facility.

Alkali metals have the property of being very reactive in an air environment. As a result, any spills or releases of alkali metals are not anticipated to be found in an unreacted state. The compounds anticipated after reaction with the air are oxides, hydroxides, and carbonates of lithium and sodium. Closure would be achieved by removing surface deposits of sodium and lithium carbonates from the building and floor. Efforts would focus on the interior of the building where the waste was stored.

Closure activities would include decontamination and visual verification, or removal and disposal of the structure and equipment. These activities would consist of the following steps (as necessary):

- 1. Perform visual and radiological survey of building interior.
- 2. Decontaminate associated building equipment to below action levels.
- Decontaminate building floor and walls.
- 4. Perform visual verification of the building and associated equipment to determine the effectiveness of decontamination procedures.
- 5. Repeat remediation and visual verification until removal of all contaminants above action levels is verified or the component is properly disposed of.

- 6. Decontaminate equipment used in performing closure activities.
- Designate and dispose of all contaminated materials and rinsates generated during the closure activities.
- Certify that closure activities were completed in accordance with the approved plan.

Action levels refer to chemical concentrations that prompt an action. For sodium and lithium carbonates, the action level is 10 percent weight per volume; therefore, a visual inspection would be sufficient to ensure dangerous waste concentrations are below the acceptable action levels.

Following closure, if possible, the 4843 AMSF location would be restored to allow for the continued use of the building as a storage unit.

12. Give the location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of the proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available.

The 4843 AMSF is located in the northwest portion of the 400 Area of the Hanford Site approximately 8 miles (12.9 kilometers) north of Richland, Washington. Maps and plans of the 400 Area are contained in the 4843 AMSF closure plan with which this SEPA Checklist is being submitted. The west end of the 4843 AMSF provides part of the fence surrounding the 400 Area laydown area. The 4843 AMSF is located in the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 18, T11N, R28E.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (indicate one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep, mountainous, other.

Flat.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

> Two loading ramps extend down and away from the 4843 AMSF at a slope of approximately 1/2 inch per foot (4 percent). The land beneath the site is flat.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The soil at the 4843 AMSF consists primarily of gravelly sands. No farming is permitted on the site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate the source of the fill.

Does not apply.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Because of the flat topography, dry climate, and gravel surrounding the 4843 AMSF, large scale erosion is not expected. Minor erosion due to wind and/or precipitation could occur occasionally.

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

g. Approximately what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Approximately 80 percent of the site is covered. No changes are planned.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any?

Unpaved roadways and parking areas are covered with gravel to minimize wind erosion potential because of vehicular travel. No other erosion control methods are considered necessary.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minor amounts of exhaust will be generated by vehicles used to gain access to the site. Small quantities of dust could be generated by decontamination and sampling activities.

b. Are there any offsite sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any?

Standard work procedures and emission controls.

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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| 3. | Water |

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

No.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Does not apply.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

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b. Ground:

 Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

No.

2) Describe waste materials that will be discharged into the ground from septic waste tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The Hanford Site receives 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 centimeters) of annual precipitation. Any precipitation that occurs at the 4843 AMSF will flow away from the building and seep into the soil on and near the site. Because of the desert climate, evaporation greatly exceeds precipitation, thus, there is little recharge potential.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

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None.

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Proposed measures to reduce or control 1 d. 2 surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: 5 All water used for cleaning and sampling 6 activities will be collected and sent to an 7 appropriate disposal unit on the 8 Hanford Site. 9 10 4. **Plants** 11 12 Check the types of vegetation found on the a. 13 site: 14 15 deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other 16 evergreen tree: fir, ceder, pine, 17 18 other 19 shrubs 20 grass 21 pasture 22 crop or grain wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, 23 24 bulrush, skunk cabbage, other 25 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other 26 27 x other types of vegetation 28 29 30 Tumbleweeds 31 What kind and amount of vegetation will be 32 b. removed or altered? 33 34 35 None. 36 List threatened or endangered species known 37 c. 38 to be on or near the site. 39 None. However, additional information 40 concerning endangered and threatened plants 41 on the Hanford Site can be found in the 42 environmental documents referred to in the 43 44 answer to Checklist Question A.8. 45

Proposed landscaping, use of native plants,

or other measures to preserve or enhance

vegetation on the site, if any:

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Indicate any birds and animals which have a. been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

> hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, birds:

other

deer, bear, elk, beaver, other mammals: bass, salmon, trout, herring, fish:

shellfish. other

A variety of insects, birds, and mammals common to the Hanford Site, including pigeons, songbirds, rodents, and hares, have been observed in the vicinity of the 4843 AMSF. Additional information on birds and animals on the Hanford Site can be found in the environmental documents referred to in the answer to Checklist Ouestion A.8.

List any threatened or endangered species b. known to be on or near the site.

> However, additional information None. concerning endangered and threatened species on the Hanford Site can be found in the environmental documents referred to in the answer to Checklist Question A.8.

Is the site part of a migration route? C. If so, explain.

> The site is part of the region-wide Pacific flyway for waterfowl.

Proposed measures to preserve or enhance d. wildlife, if any:

None.

Energy and Natural Resources

What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Electricity will be used for lighting. Fuel and oil will be used for vehicles and equipment.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

The 4843 AMSF will be cleaned by removing or decontaminating all dangerous waste and waste residues to appropriate action levels. All proper procedures will be followed during these operations to minimize exposure to dangerous waste.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Hanford Site security, fire response, ambulance services, and a trained and fully equipped Hazardous Material Team are on call at all times in the event of an onsite emergency.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Environmental health hazards are expected to be minimal. Procedures to prevent and manage potential hazards are presented in the closure plan.

Noise

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Minor amounts of noise from traffic and equipment are expected on a short-term basis during day shift hours. The location of the 400 Area will prevent any detectable increase in noise levels off the Hanford Site.

Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Vehicles and equipment will meet manufacturer's requirements for noise suppression. Though not required, noise protection will be available for use at the employee's option.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The 4843 AMSF is a part of the U.S. government-owned Hanford Site, which was used for the production of special nuclear materials and is now used for the management of waste associated with the production of those materials.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

No portion of the Hanford Site, including the site of the 4843 AMSF, has been used for agricultural purposes since 1943.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The 4843 AMSF is a single-floor structure, on a concrete slab, assembled with an all steel structural frame, roof, and sides, Occupying an area of approximately 150 square meters (1,613 square feet). The interior of the building is open with no offices or rest rooms inside. Concrete block shielding exists along the north wall. Access to the building is provided by two large roll-up doors in the east and west ends and personnel doors in the southeast and northwest corners of the building.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No. This facility will be used as a storage unit for alkali metal product.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The Hanford Site is zoned by Benton County as an unclassified use district.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The 1985 Benton County Comprehensive Land Use Plan designates the Hanford Site as the "Hanford Reservation." Under this designation, land on the Hanford Site can be used for "activities nuclear in nature." Nonnuclear activities are authorized "if and when DOE approval for such activities is obtained."

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Does not apply.

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None.

Does not apply.

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EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

| 1 2 3 4 5 | | h. | Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. |
|--|----|------|---|
| 4 5 | | | No. |
| 7 8 | | i. | Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? |
| 90112314567890123456789031233333333333333333333333333333333333 | | | No people will reside in the 4843 AMSF. A limited number of employees will be assigned to work in the 4843 AMSF during closure activities. |
| | | j. | Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? |
| | | | None. |
| | | k. | Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: |
| | | | Does not apply. |
| | | 1. | Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: |
| | | | Does not apply. (Refer to Checklist Question B.8.f.) |
| | 9. | Hous | ing |
| | | a. | Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing. |
| | | | None. |
| | | b. | Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing. |

Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | 10. | Aesthetics | | |
|---|-----|-------------------|---|-------|
| | | a. | What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? | |
| | | | The existing 4843 AMSF has a total height of approximately 20 feet (6.1 meters). The building exterior walls and roof are steel. No new building construction is planned. | |
| | 1 | b. | What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? | |
| | | | None. | |
| | | c. | Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: | |
| 21 22 23 | | | | None. |
| 24 25 | 11. | . Light and Glare | | |
| 26 27 28 29 | | a. | What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? | |
| 30 | | | None. | |
| 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 | | b. | Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? | |
| | | | | No. |
| | | c. | What existing offsite sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? | |
| | | | None. | |
| | | d. | Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: | |
| | | | Does not apply. | |

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

12. Recreation

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a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

None.

 Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any?

Does not apply.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers are known to be on or next to the 4843 AMSF. Additional information on the Hanford Site environment can be found in the environmental documents referred to in the answer to Checklist Question A.8.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There are no known archaeological, historical, or native American religious sites at or next to the 4843 AMSF. Additional information on the Hanford Site environment can be found in the environmental documents referred to in the answer to Checklist Question A.8.

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EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

No impacts are anticipated. Where appropriate, a cultural resource review will provide the vehicle for necessary approvals required under the National Historic Preservation Act.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Does not apply.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is not publicly accessible, and, therefore, is not served by public transportation.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

This project does not affect parking spaces.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

EVALUATIONS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

When the building is used for product storage, approximately one trip each week will be made to the building.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Impact will be minimized by taking multipurpose trips with several stops.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

Does not apply.

16. Utilities

a. List utilities currently available at the site (electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other):

Electricity is the only utility currently available at the 4843 AMSF. Portable radios are carried by personnel accessing the 4843 AMSF, and a telephone is located approximately 100 feet (30.5 meters) west of the 4843 AMSF.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No new utilities or general construction activities are proposed.

SIGNATURES The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision. J. E. Rasmussen, Division Director Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office **Environmental Services** Westinghouse Hanford Company